

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Cynthia S. Hanson

LINDA BUTLER: PHOTOGRAPHS OF JAPAN
November 2, 1990 - January 6, 1991

American photographer Linda Butler examines the meditative, spiritual aspect of Japanese rural life in a photography exhibition at The Cleveland Museum of Art from November 2, 1990, through January 6, 1991. Twenty-two black-and-white images in the exhibition, **Linda Butler: Photographs of Japan**, suggest the complex differences between urban Japan, which has been much photographed, and rural Japan, unknown to most Westerners. Tom Hinson, curator of contemporary art at the Museum, organized the show as part of the 1990 **Asian Autumn**.

Butler used a 4" x 5" view camera to capture the intricacies of the rural life she observed during five trips to Japan, each six weeks long, between 1976 and 1989. As the product of an antique-style camera, her images appear unhurried and pervaded by a spiritual mood. Many photographs are of simple objects, such as a naked doll, radishes, and kitchen pots. One, titled Earthen Floor, shows the carefully swept earthen floor in the vestibule of a rural home, rare today, when most floors are made of easy to clean concrete. Another, Sorting Soybeans, shows a woman gathering beans for miso soup or to roast as a snack.

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